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COUNTER-ADDRESS.

TO THE

P U B L I C,

Relative to the C A S E S of

ELIZABETH CANNING

A N D

M A R Y S Q U I R E S,

Being a proper Introduction to the Refutation of

Sir CRISP GASCOYNE's Account of

HIS OWN CONDUCT.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BLUNT, and Sold at the Pamphlet-Shops of *London*
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ELIZABETH CANNING

MARY SOUTHERS

ST. CRISTO GASCONYNE'S Account of

His Own Conduct.

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TO THE

P U B L I C,

Relative to the C A S E S of

ELIZABETH CANNING and MARY SQUIRES.

Being a proper Introduction to the Refutation of
Sir *CRISP GASCORNE*'s Account
of HIS OWN CONDUCT.

I Doubt not but you have read *Sir Crisp's* Address; and have observed with what remarkable Zeal it is dispersed and retailed. The Design, you see, is to vindicate his Conduct in the Cases of *Elizabeth Canning* and *Mary Squires*. But the Trials themselves would have been much more acceptable to the Public. By these we should have seen the Evidence on both Sides, with the very different (not to say, contradictory) Verdicts of the Jury; and should have been able to have formed a better Judgment upon the whole, how far the Advocates for either Side were to be blamed, or justified: and whether the Petitioners for *Canning's* Pardon, or at least for the mildest Execution of the Sentence, had not some Reason to hope for a favourable Audience, especially after the Royal Scepter of Mercy had been extended to *Squires*.

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The threatened Manner of *Canning's* Transportation, was generally deemed to be worse than Death. The very Rumour of it had like to have cost the unhappy Prisoner her Life. It is said to have thrown her, first into a Fainting Fit, and then into a Fever.—Now, when this Sickness had caused her Transportation to be respited, and had induced the Worshipful Court of Aldermen to deliberate upon a Method more agreeable to the known Clemency of the best of Sovereigns, as well as to the Genius of the *English* Laws and Nation; at such a Juncture as this to present the Public with an artful and laboured Apology for Sir C's Conduct, to the apparent Prejudice of the helpless Sufferer, without an Opportunity for her Friends to reply, some may construe as a Design to influence the Bench of Justice, in the approaching Session, to severer Measures, and to spirit up the Populace to join in the Cry.—But can we easily suppose that a Chief Magistrate, whose Compassion had drawn him into such an expensive Vindication of a mere Stranger, of a suspicious Profession and Character, to be capable of such Inhumanity towards one, who not only had hitherto behaved with uncommon Decency and Sobriety, but was born, and actually lived within the Verge of this great Metropolis, so lately committed to his more peculiar Protection and Care.

However, in Justice to the poor Girl, as well as to her equally generous Patrons, it mayn't be improper, in imitation of the *Inspector*, to present the Public with an Extract out of *Elizabeth Canning's* Case also, with the Names of those who either did, or were ready to have sworn to the several Parts of it. I the rather chuse to do this, because a learned Physician of Character and Penetration, who attended her in her last dangerous Illness, being closely interrogated, whether she discovered any Remorse or Sense of Guilt under this threatening Disorder, assured his Friend, *No, No*; so far from it, that he was more and more confirmed in the circumstantial Truth of her Story; suitable to the Confessions of *Mary Squires*, *Susannah Wells*, and *Judith* the Wife of *Fortune Natus*, attested by the Oaths of them, who heard them.

" Upon the Trial of *Mary Squires*, when the Judge was summoning up that Part of the Evidence, which relates to her cutting off *E. C.'s* Stays, and pushing her up Stairs, she in the Hearing of *William Hickman*, Distiller in *Bishopsgate-Street* (who stood very near her) said, " *Yes so I did, poor innocent Creature; I wish I had never seen her.*"

" Upon her Trial, when the Witness *Mr. Lyon* was giving his Evidence, she, in the hearing of *Mr. Mead*, a Shoe-maker in *Silver-street*," said " *That good-looking old Man (meaning Mr. Lyon) tells his Story so well, that I am afraid it will go hard with me; and is it not very*
hard,

hard, that I should suffer, and Mrs. Wells be saved, who is as Guilty as I?"

"Soon after *Susannah Wells* was committed to Prison, *John Ward* went thither to see her, to whom she confessed (in the Hearing of *Richard Jones* of *Shoe-Lane London*, Founder) That *Eliz. Canning* was kept in her House Twenty Eight Days, and that he knew the Room she was in very well."

Nathaniel Crampborn of *Waltham Cross*, in the Parish of *Chestnut*, speaking to *Judith*, Wife to *Fortune Natus*, said, "How can you have the Conscience to deny that this poor Creature (meaning *Elizabeth Canning*) was at *Mother Wells's House*, when you lodged there? And *Natus* answered in the Hearing of *Crampborn*, his Wife and *Langley*, I cannot say, but she was there."

And when *Charles Dickinson* of *Chestnut*, Husbandman and Shepherd, on the 15th of Jan. 1753, New Stile, came to the House of *Susannah Wells* to look for his Dog, (bought of her Son-in-Law, *John Howet*, and accustomed to her House,) during his stay there, *Judith Natus* opened a Door leading to a Room up Stairs, and to which Room there was no Door, except that at the Bottom of the said Stairs. While the said Door was open, viz. about the Space of a Minute, he hearing something in the Room, looked up, and saw a Wooman in the said Room, (her back being turned to him) shuffling about, as if she was very cold and weak, and in a ragged Condition, with no Gown on, only a Petticoat, and something dirty over her Shoulders. The said *Judith Natus*, without saying any Thing, shut the Door, and *Sarah Howet*, Daughter of *Susannah Wells*, asked *Judith Natus*, what was the Matter? upon which *Judith Natus* answered, It was that Bitch above Stairs. That he apprehends and verily believes the Person he saw in the said Room, on the said 15th of January, upon the divers Circumstances which he saw, and has heard from Time to Time, was *Eliz. Canning*.

Now this poor Girl, I consider as a Child of the Public, a fatherless Child, the Stay and Comfort of a poor honest and industrious Widow, that has four younger Children besides to labour for; she was allowed in open Court by the Council against her to be hitherto of an untainted Character, and strict Sobriety; and therefore the more unlikely to launch out at once into the Depths of the most complicated Villainy. For, *Nemo repente fit turpissimus*. To turn out, in the first Scene, an intriguing perjured Whore, covering over her false Pretensions to Chastity, with a Declaration upon Oath, that she was robbed and stript with Circumstances of unheard of Cruelty, and to do this at the Expence of the Life of an ancient Woman, that had never injured or seen her, but

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